

The Reporter for Conscience' Sake

The Center on Conscience & War

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Federal and State Penalties for Nonregistrants by Pat Elder, Volunteer

Whether for reasons of conscience, a lack of information or simply for not acting, young men who fail to register with Selective Service are subject to a growing number of federal and state penalties. Although there is currently no draft, Selective Service registration is the law of the land. Almost all male U.S. citizens and male immigrant aliens residing in the U.S. are required to be registered with Selective Service if they are at least 18 years old but are not yet 26 years old. Young men who are turning 18 are required to register within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

At the federal level, non-registrants are threatened with a maximum of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, although no one has been prosecuted since 1986. Nationally, Selective Service registration non-compliance totals 11% for men turning 20, with several states reporting non-compliance rates at about 20%.

Although Selective Service refers to the myriad of punitive measures enacted by federal and state government as "benefits and programs linked to registration", the measures amount to all stick and no carrot. Young

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men who aren't registered with Selective Service are not eligible for federal student loans or grant programs. This includes Pell Grants, College Work Study, Guaranteed Student/ Plus Loans, and National Direct Student Loans. Men must be registered to be

eligible for jobs in the Executive Branch of the federal Reporter for Conscience Sake

government and the U.S. Postal Service. The U.S. Citizenship and Immagration Service makes registration with Selective Service a condition for U.S. citizenship if a man first arrived in the U.S. before his 26th birthday. The Workforce Investment Act, which provides young men with various job skills, is closed to non-registrants. None of these measures currently apply to women.

Even with its toolkit of punitive federal measures, the agency admits a non-compliance rate of 11% nationally. Over 2,000,000 young men will turn 20 this year, leaving more than 200,000 unregistered. To address this shortfall, the agency has set its sites on state legislation geared toward an additional layer of punitive laws, particularly legislation that makes registration a prerequisite for obtaining a state driver's license.

Selective Service Exaggerates Success and Misrepresents Fact

Selective Service, in its zeal to increase national compliance rates for registering young men between the ages of 18 and 26 for a potential draft, has exaggerated the scope and significance of state laws linking registration to the issuance of driver's licenses and other state functions. The agency provides incorrect accounts of laws in numerous states and even contradicts itself on its website, www.sss.gov.

One section of the site, www.sss.gov/
FSstateleg.htm, claims that a Texas law became effective on Sept. 1, 2001 requiring young men to be registered with Selective Service to obtain a state driver's license.
The agency claims that Gov. Rick Perry signed this legislation on June 15, 2001 but another section of the site, Laws Linking SSS Registration to State Driver's License Applications, singles out Texas for having a minimal impact on registration compliance rates because Texas makes "the link with SSS registration optional." The latter, in fact, is true. Texas represents a treasure trove of potential registrants with more than 200,000 young men reaching draft age annually, behind continued on page 4

Summer 2004



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News Briefs

ITALY: End of conscription

Bringing Italy in line with most of the rest of Europe, the Italian parliament today approved plans to make the armed services all-volunteer from January 1, ending universal military conscription.

However, anyone wanting to join the police, the para-military carabinieri, the customs service or the fire service will still have first to serve a year in the army for a monthly salary of up to 980 euro (\$1693). Those born in 1985 will be the last to be called up, unless they have obtained student or other exemptions.

ARMENIA: Conscientious objectors imprisoned in spite of CO law

Although the Armenian law on alternative service came into force on 1 July, the country continues to imprison conscientious objectors. So far, 5 new conscientious objectors have been sentenced in October 2004.

ISRAEL: CO sentenced to 28 days

On Sunday 26 September, reservist G. S. was sentenced to 28 days for refusing to serve in the Occupied Territories. G. S. immigrated to Israel from South Africa 12 years ago, and told his trial on Sunday that his childhood in apartheid South Africa had been very influential on his willingness to go to prison for his beliefs. "I lived in a

society where one group's survival translated into injustice for others. That's the situation in Gaza and I don't want to be part of that," he said according to an article in Ha'aretz from 27 September. G. S. is a signatory to the Combatants letter of "Courage to Refuse".

FINLAND: Total objector sentenced

On 7 September 2004, the Loviisa district court sentenced total objector Panu Väänänen to 181 days of unconditional imprisonment for refusing to perform substitute service. Panu Väänänen had performed the 1-month induction period for substitute service for conscientious objectors back in 1997, but declared in April 2004 that he refuses to perform the rest of his substitute service. Väänänen states that military service had never been an option for him because of his anti-war conviction.

ISRAEL: CO imprisoned

On Wednesday, 1 September 2004, Eyal Nahum (ISR14592) was sentenced to 28 days in prison for refusing to perform reserve duty in the Occupied Territories. He is serving his prison term in Military Prison 4. He was released on 27 September 2004.

Staff goes to Philadelphia by Sara Baldwin

This past June, five members of the CCW staff took a trip up to Philadelphia to take part in the counterrecruitment conference put on by the National Network Opposing the Militarization of Youth (NNOMY). The three-day conference covered the issues presented by the current war with Iraq and increased efforts by the U.S. Military to recruit more and more youths to take the place of soldiers who have fallen and those who have left, refusing to fight any longer. Recruiters are out in force using new and flashier tactics to attract youths who have not decided what to do with their future and those whose lives do not offer many other opportunities. The first day of the conference, everyone was divided into many different caucuses in which different issues regarding recruitment were discussed. Most of the CCW staff attended the draft caucus, discussing different issues surrounding the possibility of a draft and its impact on recruitment and counter-recruitment. Although most people involved in the caucus did not see a draft as an immediate possibility, other issues surrounding recruitment were brought up. It was a common concern among those involved that not enough information was getting to the youth of America about a draft and about military service. Issues such as the "poverty draft" and "no child left behind" were brought up. Although not true drafts, these are commonly used to gain more recruits for military service. The second day was used to share information from each caucus group, meet in groups related to our own specific geographic region and workshops to help brainstorm new ideas for counterrecruitment. The biggest event of the morning was when the youth caucus took the floor and spoke out about the issues that affected them directly and how they wanted to be a greater part of the workings of NNOMY. As the group most affected by recruiting tactics, they felt it was their duty to be a part of the steering committee. Although the main goal of the conference is to work towards ways to demilitarize youth, there were no youth members of the steering committee; the caucus wanted to work to change that. By the end of the conference, their goals of having youth on the committee were met. After the caucuses Summer 2004

gave their reports, groups were split up by region. A number of our members went to the mid -Atlantic region meeting, while others went to the Midwest meeting. Issues of new recruiting tactics were discussed. The need to go to schools the same time as recruiters was brought up. We were also encouraged to find out where and when the Army's new recruiting buses would be and to go to those places and pass out flyers. Discussion was brought up about our rights to find out when recruiters would be in schools and to make alliances with guidance counselors and teachers to help us show a different side of military life. Emphasis was placed on making alliances with teachers and guidance counselors, so that even if we could not set up a table next to the recruiter, at least we would be able to go into the classroom. After the meetings by region, we were again split up into groups to discuss issues of how to make the network better by diversifying its steering committee and working to incorporate all people into the network and not to apply stereotypes. By diversifying our own group, we can greater understand those who are being greatly affected by recruitment tactics. By having the youth's perspective and the older members' experience, and working together with a more diversified group, this year promises to be one of great accomplishment.

A Report: CCW Meets with Selective Service by Theo Sither

On July 23, 2004, the CCW staff visited the Selective Service office in Arlington, VA. The meeting was geared toward connecting with those who are in charge of the draft system and maintaining a viable relationship.

The meeting began with a presentation by Cassandra Costley, Manager of the Alternative Service Division, which was created as part of a restructuring. According to the presentation, the fair and good treatment of conscientious objectors (CO) and placing them in the best alternative service project is a high priority for the Department. The placement process of a CO in an alternative service project will ensure that the work will not conflict with other beliefs held by the CO and it will make recommendations for a fair salary. If the draft is reinstated again, alternative service would not be seen as

from page 1 only California.

Overstating the breadth and impact of state laws that provide penalties for non-registrants may benefit Selective Service in two ways. Legislators from states without laws requiring registration for driver's licenses may be persuaded that the majority of states have enacted mandatory license laws requiring registration as a condition for receiving a driver's license and feel unwarranted pressure to enact the same type of laws in their states. Second, young men, who are referred to the site by teachers, counselors, employers and others, may be coerced into registering by being fed inaccurate information.

For instance, the Selective Service claims that Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack signed into law a bill "that requires Iowa men, 18 through 25 years old, to be registered to obtain a state driver's license". However, Iowa law provides that residents *may* register when applying for a license. The Iowa statute allows for men ages 18 through 25 who apply for a driver's license to give consent to registration with Selective Service. Iowans may declare that they are already registered, give consent, or refuse to give registration consent. A license will not be denied if registration is refused.

Information provided by Selective Service appears in hundreds of governmental and non-governmental publications. The National Conference of State Legislatures, for example, recently reported that Iowa requires registration with Selective Service for driver's licenses and reports that the governor signed the measure into law in April of 2003. Neighboring legislators in Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri, where mandatory registration is not part of the driver's licensing process, may take notice and act presumptuously.

In its report, **State/Commonwealth Legislation**, the agency makes numerous inaccurate claims regarding state license laws and other legislation linked to registration. The agency claims that a **Georgia** law became effective in 2001 that "requires men to be registered with Selective Service to obtain a state driver's license." Actually, Georgia law provides that the state shall furnish licensing information to Selective Service but registration is not mandatory. The report also claims that Georgia requires registration as a precondition for state

employment, which it does not. The same erroneous claims regarding driver's licenses are made regarding Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee and West Virginia.

The agency incorrectly claims that **Florida**, **Kentucky**, **Maine and Massachusetts** withhold state financial aid for college if applicants are not registered.

Although Selective Service claims that 33 states, 3 territories, and DC have enacted driver's license laws supporting Selective Service registration, only 22 states and two territories have actually passed laws that mandate registration as a requirement for obtaining a state driver's license (Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Northern Mariana Islands, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah. Virgin Islands, Virginia and Wisconsin). Ten states, DC and Guam have passed laws which mostly provide for the transfer to the agency of personal information gathered, but stop short of mandating registration as a condition for obtaining a driver's license (Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Texas, and West Virginia). Applicants in these states may simply choose to not register. The 19 remaining states and Puerto Rico have no laws linking Selective Service registration to the issuance of driver's licenses.

The agency publishes misleading reports and charts that relay the perception that mandatory license laws have been enacted in the majority of states. In the report, *Laws Linking SSS Registration to State Driver's License Applications*, the agency obfuscates the fact that only 21 states have enacted legislation that actually requires Selective Service registration as a condition for receiving a state driver's license.

In an effort to ensure compliance among young men, many states have enacted legislation which links Selective Service registration with the process of applying for a driver's license or state identification card. As a result of such legislation, in May 2002, the state of Delaware, which enacted driver's license legislation in 2000, became the first state to reach nearly 100% registration compliance since the Agency began compiling this data."

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STATE PENALTIES FOR NON-REGISTRANTS

States	License Law	College Admission	Financial Aid	State Employme- nt
AL	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
AL	No	No	Yes	certain state jobs
AZ	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
AR	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
CA	No	No	Yes	No
CT	No	No	No	No
D.C.	passive	No	No	No
DE	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
FL	Yes	No	No	Yes
GA	state shall furnish info	No	Yes	No
Guam	passive	No	No	No
н	Yes	No	No	No
ID	passive	Yes	Yes	Yes
IL	mandatory bill awaits governor	No	Yes	Yes
IN	No	No	No	No
IA	not mandatory	No	No	No
KS	Yes	No	No	No
KY	Yes	No	No	No
LA	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
ME	No	No	No	No
MD	passive	No	No	No
MA	No	No	No	No
MI	No	No	No	No
MN	No	No	No	No
MS	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

States	License Law	College Admission	Financial Aid	State Employme- nt
МО	passive	No	Yes	Yes
МТ	not mandatory	No	Yes	Yes
NE	not mandatory	No	No	No
NV	No	No	No	No
NH	passive	Yes	Yes	Yes
NJ	No	No	Yes	Yes
NM	Yes	No	No	No
NY	Yes	No	No	No
NC	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
ND	No	No	No	No
ОН	Yes	No	Yes	No
OK	Yes	No	No	No
OR	No	No	No	No
PA	No	No	No	No
RI	Yes	No	No	No
SC	Yes	No	No	No
SD	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
TN	not mandatory	Yes	Yes	Yes
TX	passive	No	Yes	Yes
UT	Yes	No	Yes	No
VT	No	No	No	No
Virgin Isles	Yes	No	No	No
VA	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
wv	passive	Yes	Yes	Yes
WI	Yes	No	Yes	No
WY	No	No	No	No

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The report continues with the following Subheading, **Description of Typical Driver's License Legislation** and proceeds to describe legislation that directs state motor vehicle administrations to include a consent statement on all applications for driver's permits. The statement tells the applicant that by submitting the application he is consenting to Selective Service registration. An accompanying chart, **State/Territories Legislation** identifies 35 states and territories that have enacted Selective Service provisions into their licensing laws. The report and accompanying chart convey a distorted picture. www.sss.gov/PDFs/DriversLicense2004.pdf>

The issue is whether citizens are forced to register when they apply for a license. Selective Service would have you believe this is the case more often than not.

State Penalties for Non-registrants

State laws pertaining to Selective Service registration generally fall under four categories: (1) driver's license laws (2) admission to state colleges and universities, (3) state financial aid for colleges and universities and (4) state employment. A "yes" designation in the chart below denotes the most severe, comprehensive law mandating registration in each of the categories. For instance, Alabama's laws require Selective Service registration as a prerequisite for obtaining a state driver's license, admission to all state colleges and universities and all state employment. A "no" designation means there are no laws pertaining to the Selective Service under that category. Notes are included for laws not fitting either designation.

Editor's note... Please look at the state penalties chart listed on page 5. If you have any further questions about state penalties, please do not hesitate to contact the Center.

Remember the Center in your wills.
Consider making the Center your IRA beneficiary.

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a punishment for COs (as it was during World War II and the Vietnam War), it would instead be an opportunity for COs to work a civilian job that will give back to the community and uphold all their beliefs.

Following the presentation by Ms. Costley was a question and answer time. The CCW staff asked several questions which Cassandra Costley and Dick Flahaven, Selective Service Associate Director, answered. When asked, they made sure to mention that they have received no special instructions regarding the reinstatement of the draft.

The Center's staff also inquired about which system they plan to utilize in the event of a draft. The Selective Service currently has two systems in place for drafting. One is the Registrant Integrated Processing System (RIPS), which is designed to mobilize draftees in a period of six months. The other system is the Registrant Information Management System (RIMS), which is an emergency system designed for draftees to be mobilized in a matter of two weeks. Mr. Flahaven confirmed that they do not intend on using RIMS, but there was no comment on why both systems are still in place.

The Center's staff then asked about the state driver's license laws, which in some states leads minors to be registered. Mr. Flahaven commented that the language of the law is explicit, but sometimes it leads to misinterpretations. However, he guaranteed that Selective Service would be willing to un-register anyone who was erroneously registered.

The meeting ended with friendly handshakes and chitchat. The visit to the Selective Service office gave an opportunity for CCW's staff and summer interns to see that it is important to keep an open relationship with the people who are in charge of the draft system. In the event of a military draft, CCW will be better equipped to serve and defend the rights of conscientious objectors because of this openness.

^{*} Article written from notes compiled by Michelle Williams.

Part Two

War's Environmental Effects: A Poisonous Stain By Theo Sitther and Michelle Williams

This is the second in a series of articles on war's environmental effects.

The focus of this article is on how chemical weapons testing during World War I (WWI) is affecting a community in the Washington, D.C. area. There are many other areas around the world that have suffered and are still suffering due to the devastation of a past war. This article is not meant to marginalize those other communities.

The First World War ushered in the age of chemical weapons in modern warfare. Less was known regarding the consequences of using and manufacturing deadly chemicals and their long-term effects on the environment and surrounding community. Camp American University in Washington, D.C. was the first chemical warfare research and testing site in the United States. WWI was over before any of the toxic weapons could be used in the war. However, the development of the chemicals has left a poisonous stain on the American University (AU) and the Spring Valley (SV) area of Washington, D.C.

In 1986, AU discovered through old newspaper articles that part of the campus was used as a chemical weapons burial site to dispose of the chemicals and ordnance that were not shipped to an arsenal in Maryland. Although the proper Army authorities were notified, little action was taken until 1993. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) conducted a clean-up project between 1993-1995, known as Operation Safe Removal (OSR). 72 homes had to be evacuated (another 60 or so were voluntarily evacuated), and 141 munitions were found. 43 out of the 141 turned out to contain chemical warfare agents. High levels of arsenic, which is a by-product of chemical weapons, were also found throughout the AU and the SV community (see Sidebar 1).

Once OSR was completed in 1995, the Army declared the area to be free of contamination and the case closed. However, old documentation resurfaced and in 1998 after much persistence by the District of Columbia Department of Health, the case was reopened after the ACE admitted to shortcomings during OSR. The South Korean ambassador's backyard in the SV neighborhood was surveyed and later excavated; many kinds of weapons debris and chemicals were found, and the soil again tested positive for high levels of arsenic. Other properties in the same neighborhood were also tested. In 2000 alone,

twice as many munitions were found as during OSR. In search of a burial site, the ACE excavated the property next to the Korean Ambassador's house in 2001. This effort produced hundreds of items, which includes bombshells, metal drums, mortar rounds, two bottles of mustard gas, and five bottles of Lewisite (see Sidebar 2). At one point during the dig, workers noticed smoke rising out of the soil. Two workers had to be hospitalized due to fume inhalation. Moreover, dozens of bottles containing deadly gases were found on other properties.

In August of 2003, a bottle of Lewisite was found in the southwest corner of the AU campus, which was a debris field dubbed by the Army as "Lot 18". Plans were made to excavate the area beginning June 21, 2004 and ending in 2007. The Army Corps' SV project manager, Gary Schilling, announced in June 2004 that the Defense Department had approved an extension for the ACE to work at Lot 18 for an additional three years (until 2010). This will cost an additional \$33 million; a small percentage of this fund will be used to remove arsenic from residential soil and to monitor groundwater. A total of \$90 million has already been spent since 1993.

Safety measures have been taken in the six-year project at Lot 18. A siren, as part of an emergency notification system, has been installed. In the event of a chemical leak during the dig, local residents and the AU campus will be notified. Lot 18 will also have a 24-hour security guard and an ambulance on standby. The ACE civilian contractors will be required to wear heavy protective gear and must pass through a Personnel Decontamination Station every morning before working inside the tentlike Engineering Control Structure. Inside the structure an air-detection device and an air-filtering system have been put in place. Minicams and back up generators also ensure safety in and around the lot.

Even though operations are finally underway for a thorough clean-up, these deadly chemicals have been present in the community since the end of World War I. Much damage has already been caused to the surrounding area, its residents, and other life forms.

Sedgwick Street, which is in SV, was built over a

Sidebar 1, Arsenic: Long-term exposure to small amounts can cause bladder, lung, non-melanoma skin, liver, kidney, or prostate cancer; cardiovascular disease; diabetes mellitus; damage to peripheral nerves; and /or changes in color/thickness of skin.

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former chemical weapons testing trench. During the past thirty years, several residents living on this street have had rare cases of cancer, anemia, and lupus. Two former residents have even died due to cancer. This area is now under consideration for a thorough investigation to determine the level of contamination in the soil. Along Rockwood Parkway, the residential street by Lot 18, high rates of disease have been reported. A former resident of the house adjacent to the lot has cardiomyopathy (heart muscle illness), and subsequent residents developed peripheral neuropathy and severe skin rashes.

Geza Teleki, who lived for over 20 years on 48th Street, another area where chemicals were formally tested, was on the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board and has been an outspoken critic of the Army. He suffers from hypothyroidism, diabetes and the beginning stages of kidney failure. His wife has experienced peripheral neuropathy and hair loss. Moreover the family dog died at a young age due to a blood disorder and hypothyroidism. The couple is convinced that their illnesses are directly correlated to the Army's toxic waste. Teleki's former residence and the surrounding area is also under consideration for an investigation.

The family that formally resided in the Korean ambassador's house on Glenbrook Road in the 1950s and 1960s suffered many health problems. The children, now adults, often experienced severe skin rashes. Their parents, who spent much time gardening, both died of cancer (prostate and liver). Other families living in the same neighborhood also died of cancer at a relatively young age (prostate and blood-related). Two other residents who grew up in the SV community during the 1950s and 1960s developed pernicious anemia; one a man, showing symptoms at age 60, and the other a woman, showing symptoms since childhood. The American Medical Association maintains that this disease normally tends to occur in middle-aged women and that it is hereditary. Neither is the case for both of these individuals. Moreover, other SV residents have reported nosebleeds, headaches, hair loss, and tingling around the mouth and hands. Many people have also reported a high percentage of sick and dead pets.

The ACE was recently accused once more of allegedly withholding information from the public and from its partners (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and D.C. Health Department). The partnering agencies were re-informed in May of 2004 that high levels of mercury

were found in the soil on parts of the AU campus and other areas in 2001(see Sidebar 3). One area was found to contain mercury levels 375 times the normal amount. The ACE found 30,000 to 112,000 parts per billion of mercury in the soil, when only 20 to 625 parts per billion is considered normal. This information was just released to the public in July 2004, and Richard Albright (environmental specialist at D.C. Health Department) claims the results of that particular test had not previously been shared with ACE's partners. Much of the effects of the chemical weapons and debris present in the SV and the AU community will require much more research to determine the long-term effects on the environment, plant and animal life, and people.

Even though more information is now known regarding the noxious aspects of the chemicals used during World War I, had the Army and the University taken more precautions, much money, time, and the health of the community could have been saved. War is a deadly game no matter what the justification; war has killed, war is killing, and war continues to kill long after nations sign treaties. World War I was no exception and it has left a poisonous stain.

Acknowledgement

Sara Baldwin researched the information regarding the effects of the chemicals presented in the three sidebars

Sources

- 1. The Northwest Current, March 2003 July 2004. (local NW D.C. newspaper)
- 2. Washington Post, July 9, 2001.
- 3. The Washingtonian, December 2000.
- 4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.atsdr.cdc.gov/atsdrhome.html (for mercury and arsenic information)

<u>www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/Lewisite/basics/facts.asp</u> (for Lewisite information)

Sidebar 2, Lewisite (a "blistering agent"): Direct inhalation or prolonged exposure can cause loss of sight, fluid buildup in lungs, liver/kidney/spleen problems, and could lead to anemia.

Sidebar 3, Mercury: Exposure to large amounts can cause disruption of nervous system, brain function damage, DNA/ chromosomal damge, allergic reactions, and negative reproductive effects. Damaged brain functions can cause personality change, tremors, learning dissabilities, vision changes, deafness, muscle incoordination, and memory loss.



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From the Desk of the Executive Director

When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth has always won. There have been murderers and tyrants, and for a time they seem invincible. But in the end, they always fall. — Mahatma Gandhi

It is easy to look to the future and get gloomy. The prospect of a draft seems greater now than it has been in the last 30 years. The military is forcing people to stay in Iraq against their will and well beyond the expected end of their contracts. We appear poised on the invasion of Iran and in increased conflict with North Korea. And no one knows to what the pending death of Arafat may lead.

We do have some control on the future. We can, one by one, work with conscientious objectors and young men and women in the military. We can, one by one, visit cities and towns and talk about our rights and responsibilities in relation to a potential draft and the continuing militarization of our schools. We can, one by one, lobby our congressional representatives and make sure that they understand what being a conscientious objectors means and what we can and cannot do. The Center does this in your names—and more.

But we do so on a virtual shoestring. Most charitable organizations have larger budgets and staffs. When I talk to other

executive directors (and to my donors) about who our "big" donors are they are often amazed. A big donor to this organization gives only \$100 or more annually. No thousand dollar black-tie affairs here. In most years, the average donation falls somewhere around \$43.00 per individual donor. The average number of donations from individuals each year is approximately 2,500.

The good news about our situation with many small donors and a frugal dedicated staff such as mine, is that it would take so very little more from each of those donors to make a significant difference in this organization. If each of the donors gave one more dollar, I could afford to have another intern or Brethren or Mennonite volunteer. If each donor only gave \$5 more, I would be in a position to obtain computer resources to allow more detailed tracking of bills in Congress and better access for each of you to lobby. Ten dollars each would allow me to hire a staff attorney to help with the litigation for which I never seem to have the time.

Such tiny amounts would have incredible results.

Yours for Peace and Justice,

J.E. McNeil

